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May 15, 2002

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Re: H.R. 3005

Dear Senator Daschle and Senator Lott:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ), I write to express CCJ's concerns about aspects of H.R. 3005, the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002, which is before the Senate as part of H.R. 3009, the Andean Trade Preference Expansion Act. As you may know, CCJ is an organization comprised of the chief justice or chief judge of the highest court of each state, the District of Columbia and several territories, working to improve the administration of justice in the United States. Our issues relate to the impact of the implementation of the bill on the integrity of state and federal courts.

Specifically, we are concerned that the bill does not protect adequately the traditional values of constitutional federalism and that its implementation poses risks to the finality of judgments, so important to our system of justice. Issues arising under similar investor protection provisions in Chapter 11 of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) have demonstrated that such concerns are well-founded.

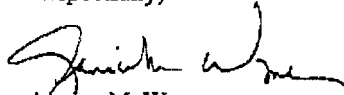
We are aware that various state and local organizations such as the National Association of Attorneys General, the Conference of

Mayors, National League of Cities, and National Association of Counties have identified similar problems with H.R. 3005. We share many of the same concerns. Therefore, we urge you to consider appropriate measures to preserve the integrity of the courts of this country and their ability to adjudicate fairly and finally the rights of all parties who seek justice in them.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have members of your staffs contact Mr. Ed O'Connell who provides administrative and technical support to the work of CCJ. Mr. O'Connell can be reached at (703) 841-5602.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,



Annice M. Wagner

cc: U.S. Senate